CONFIDENTIAL

RF 46

15107

TO: The Under Secretary

THROUGH: S/S

FROM: NEA - Lucius D. Battle

SUBJECT: Additional Points for Your Talk with Mr. Evron on USS Liberty

REF: My briefing memorandum of August 18, 1967

For your information, at least five copies of the Israeli report have already been distributed in Congress, one each to the committees dealing with foreign affairs, to those dealing with the armed services, and to the House Appropriations Committee.

Should your reference to the probability of an early leak (and our need to explain what we are doing on this matter to the American public) draw a remark from Mr. Evron concerning possible Israeli publication of the report, we recommend you respond making the following points:

We generally approve of any course which will put Israel's behavior and attitude in the best possible light before the American audience;

If publication of the Israeli report is envisaged in the form in which it was passed to us, we would appreciate one deletion--the identification of the Liberty (in para. 11) as "an electromagnetic audio-surveillance ship." Although this fact is known to some, our own public announcements have spoken of it simply as a communications vessel, and the Israeli report need not identify it at all beyond calling it a ship of the U.S. Navy named Liberty whose marking was G. T. R. - 5.

Mr. Welmeyer of L and Mr. Lambrakis of NEA/IAI will sit in. They can assist with the details of the report if this should become necessary. An NEA copy of the Israeli report is attached for your perusal in advance of the meeting, if you desire.

Attachment:

Israeli report

Clearances:
NEA/IAI-Mr. Bahti
NEA-Mr. Davies
L - Mr. Welmeyer

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GROUP 3
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not automatically declassified

NEA/IAI:GBLambrakis:pjw:8/30/67

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